

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application and for the allowance of claims 2, 5-7 and 10.

Claims 2, 5-7 and 10 are now present in this application. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 10 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 11 and 12 are canceled. Claims 13-20 were previously canceled. No new matter is involved.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U. S. Patent 4,871,162 to Imai et al. in view of GB 21327237. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claims 11 and 12 have been canceled by this amendment.

II. Additional cited Reference

Because the cited, but not applied, reference to U.S. Patent 4,085,929 has not been utilized to reject the claims, but has merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

III. Conclusion

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn; and that this Application be promptly passed to issue.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/726,535
Art Unit 3653

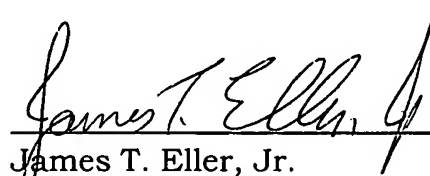
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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